


b. P

A  
LETTER  
TO  
LADY AUDLEY.

  
*Price One Shilling.*

LETTER

LADY AUDLEY.



A  
LETTER  
TO  
LADY AUDLEY,

FROM  
MR. PHILIP THICKNESSE. *K*

LONDON;

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1792





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T O  
LADY AUDLEY.

MADAM,

ON my arrival from France about Christmas last, to which kingdom I had removed with an intention never more to return to this (nor should I have returned, had not the troubles in that country rendered *those in this* less irksome to me,) I found your Ladyship at Bath; and as that union between you and Lord Audley has taken place, which I was *then* well assured was intended to be perfected, I took the liberty to write two or three letters to you, previously thereto, which were civilly expressed

pressed, and kindly meant, even on your part ; in which I stated some facts, relative to your intended husband's conduct, and requested your interposition to render me justice, whilst it was in your power so to do.

No notice having been taken of my letters, I sent you a copy of an affidavit, which is here in part subjoined; and, since your marriage, Mrs. Thicknesse troubled you with the following letter, with no better success. You cannot therefore wonder, Madam, if I lay these facts before the public; they may prove a warning to *other parents*; for I am not the only fool who has been, or may hereafter be, deceived by unnatural, ungrateful, and deceitful children.

If I am not misinformed, Madam, *you have not always been a stranger to the inconveniences of a*  
*very*

*very narrow purse, and that you travelled a great way in search of FORTUNE, before you found her\*.*  
 I therefore flattered myself, that when, by the death of your late BRAVE and GALLANT HUSBAND, you had sufficient wealth thrown into your lap, with which you might *purchase a title*, you would not have worn that title, until you had stipulated with your present NOBLE husband and partner, that, *before* he married you, he should first render justice to his injured father. The contrary having been the case, and finding myself disappointed,

I am, therefore, in truth,  
 bound to say, that I am not your  
 obliged humble servant,  
 PHILIP THICKNESSE†.

\* To the FLESH MARKET, at Bengall.

† Before the Walls of Bangalore.



P. S. If you should ever honour me with a letter, please to address it to PHILIP, not *Phil-lip*, Thicknesse; your NOBLE HUSBAND knows not how to spell his father's name!! no wonder then, that he never knew the other duties of a child to a parent. His late Uncle, who was master of St. Paul's School, often reproached him for that error, but who is it that dares to correct the errors of a Lord?

He, however, told your HUSBAND, if he did not quit the name of THICKNESSE, HE WOULD; and in that one instance he shewed *his duty to the* GOOD MAN, who could not teach him, even to spell his father's name.

A P.



## APPENDIX, No. I.

*Copy of a Letter from Mrs. Thicknesse to  
Lady Audley.*

MADAM,

AS the wife of the unfortunate gentleman who gave life to the man you have married, I take the liberty to wish you every comfort your connection and good disposition entitle you to. You have seen the affidavit made by my husband;—you know his situation, as well as *I know yours*; Mr. Thicknesse is now printing that affidavit, to which I am ready to add mine; when it is printed he will send one under cover to your Ladyship, I hope *one only*; but if you should not think his situation worthy of your most Serious attention, I believe you will be often reminded of the contrast between a virtuous man in years, and that

c

of

of his *lordly* and unfeeling son. Pardon, Madam, such warm expressions; they come from a wife who loves her husband, and who has been a faithful one, and a sufferer in his various and almost unexampled injuries, not only from his undutiful children, but the world at large.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

ANN THICKNESSE.

No. II.

*Copy of a Letter from the late Duke of Montagu to Mr. Thicknesse, referred to in a Letter to Lady Audley.*

“ SIR,

“ I Take the first opportunity of acknowledging  
the favour of your letter, and of assuring you  
“ that I would willingly co-operate with you in  
“ what you have therein proposed; but, that I  
“ may act perfectly conformable to the trust re-  
“ posed in me, I must desire you to direct the  
“ person who transacts your affairs, to lay the  
“ essential deeds relative to this business before  
“ Mr. Oddie, in Carey Street, Lincoln’s Inn, who  
“ is employed by me in all law matters, and who,  
“ I can venture to say, will use dispatch, and I

“ beg you to believe that no time shall be lost  
“ on my part.

“ I am Sir,

“ your obedient humble servant,

“ MONTAGU.”

The Duke ALLOWED ME to sell the three per cent reduced stock, which had been transferred to me at 104; but which was then so low as sixty one. I paid all the law expences, my journey to London, and lastly, to my shame and sorrow I speak it, went to Mess. Hoare, and paid into their hands a thousand pounds for the use of—who?—for what?—let the sympathising read and say. It was to empower a son to TRIUMPH over the credulity of a FATHER, who had not so many hundreds a year as the artful son had thousands. He however sat in my lap, curled my hair, and addressed his Letters “ *Honoured Sir!* should it not have been to *Fool Phil-lip?*”

*Copy*



No. III.

*Copy of a Letter to Mr. Thicknesse from the  
Rev. George Watkins, Rector of Odiham, in  
Hampshire. See my Memoirs, vol. II.  
page 126.*

*Hot-Wells, Bristol, August 12th, 1780.*

“ S I R,

“ I have just received your letter, which by  
“ its date has lain some time at Odiham,  
“ or I should have answered it sooner. I have  
“ been at this place for three weeks, in hopes,  
“ vain hopes, of establishing my poor girl’s health,  
“ which Lord Audley’s treacherous conduct has  
“ too violently affected. It must even touch *his*  
“ heart \* was he to perceive the distress and

\* The injured Lady died on her way from Bristol to Odiham.

unhappiness

“ unhappiness he has brought on one of the hap-  
“ piest families in the world—but the subject is  
“ too tender for me to enlarge upon.—I can  
“ only lament with you the cause of both our  
“ distresses; 'tis shocking to lose a favourite child,  
“ even though so much goodness must be rewar-  
“ ded.—You, Sir, I fear are too sensible what it  
“ is to be the father of *such a man* as Lord Aud-  
“ ley.

“ I am Sir, &c.

“ GEORGE WATKINS.”

## No. IV.

*Affidavit of Philip Thicknesse, the Father of  
Lord Audley, sworn at Bath the 23d Day of  
January, 1792.*

**P**HILIP THICKNESSE made an Affidavit before Jacob Smith Esq. one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the City of Bath, and therein deposed to the following purport: That, about *ten or twelve* years since, John Palmer, Esq. then of Bath, and late Comptroller of the Post-Office, came to him with a message from Lord Audley, the substance of which was—That he (Lord Audley) being sensible of his misconduct, desired deponent would permit the said Lord Audley to visit him, and that his the said Lord Audley's former neglect and misconduct might be forgotten. To which request Deponent  
replied,

replied, that he feared it was not a sincere repentance, but that, Lord Audley knowing Deponent was then very ill, a few thousand pounds (which Deponent was obliged to divide among the said Lord Audley's Mother's Children, but in the proportions he thought proper, and of which he might have given the said Lord Audley only one shilling) caused so unexpected a change in his way of acting. To obviate which, Mr. Palmer informed Deponent, that Lord Audley declared he would settle £200 a year upon Deponent during his life. He, however, desired Mr. Palmer and Lord Audley would dine with him the next day, declaring that he could say no more, till he had experienced whether any part of that unbounded affection Deponent had formerly felt for the said Lord Audley was likely to return; asserting, that, if it did not, he could not play the Hypocrite.—That the said Lord Audley and Mr.



Mr. Palmer came accordingly, and Lord Audley's conduct appeared in every respect so sincere, and his visits afterwards were so long and properly repeated, that Deponent soon recovered the long lost affection of a father—That the said Lord Audley told Deponent that he owed £1000 in London and did not know *how to look his creditors in the face, being ashamed to take the privilege of parliament\**—That Deponent proposed to apply to the late Duke of Montague, *the only Trustee*, to give him permission to make that distribution in Deponent's life time, which he had a power to make at his death. This request was complied with, Deponent therefore sold out stock, more than sufficient, and paid into Messrs. Hoare's hand a thousand pounds for the said Lord Aud-

\* This I believe to be true, for when I met the wretch the other day in BATH, he could not look in mine, and plainly gave me an image of *that state* LORDS and Plebeians, are all consigned to.

ley's use, he being engaged to pay Deponent *only* lawful interest, for that was all he offered to engage for—But even that when due, could not be obtained, till he had waited at the door of this *generous son* while he sent the said Lord Audley in (by his own servant) a pistol to *shoot* rather than *starve* his father—Truth obliges Deponent to add, that Lord Audley did settle, at Deponent's earnest request, £100 a year on Mrs. Thicknesse during her and the said Lord Audley's life, *after* Deponent's death, which however shall be cancelled should the said Lord Audley render him mere justice, and then, all matters relative *to this world*, will be settled between the said Lord Audley and his highly INJURED father.

N. B. At the time Mr. Thicknesse gave Lord Audley the thousand pound, he had much reason to believe his own life was nearly at an end,  
but

but *now*, that his (Lord Audley's) is in the same situation, and Mr. Thicknesse's seems deemed to last longer than life is covetable; his request to Lady Audley was, that she would engage Lord Audley previous to her marriage, either to return the thousand pounds into the trustee's hands, or to secure to him the fifty pounds *per ann*: should Lord Audley die before him; because, should that very probable event happen, he might live to want bread, which deficiency could not have happened, had not his affection for his son, and a desire to remove Lord Audley's distress, overcome his reason. Readers, therefore, who are not warped by the glitter of an itinerant adventures —NABOBESS— or a name which ought to be applied only to GOD, at least not to worthless men, will feel those inward sentiments, which neither TONGUE CAN UTTER—PEN CONVEY; and GOD only can punish.

Miss

Miss Blandy poisoned her father! and was  
HANGED! Querie,—Whether is it a greater crime,  
to poison, shoot, or starve a parent?

*Extract of Mr. Thicknesse's last Will.*

" I desire that after my death, my right hand  
" may be cut off, and sent to Lord Aud-  
" ley, that he may see the HAND DEAD, which  
" when living, had not only often gave him many  
" guineas in his YOUTH, which his father wanted  
" in age, as well as an expensive education, with  
" a view to what he *was to be*, rather, than what he  
" *then was*, sincerely hoping thereby, that such a  
" deadly sight, may AWAKEN HIS DELUDED MIND  
" and teach him his duty to GOD, that he may  
" obtain pardon for his neglect of a father, who  
" once loved him with unbounded affection,  
" and who dying, forgives him, as he does all  
" his enemies."

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